REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, and 8-14 remain pending in this application for which applicant seeks reconsideration.

Amendment

Claims 1, 9-12, and 14 have been amended to improve its clarity and form. Specifically, independent claims 1, 11, 12, and 14 have been amended to clarify the setting feature, namely setting whether the searched data file is to be attached to an email. No new matter has been introduced.

Art Rejection

Claims 1, 5, and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ramsay (USP 5,502,576) in view of Hussey (USP 5,826,269) and Lin (USP 7,130,864). Claim 13 was rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ramsay in view of Hussey, Lin, and Langseth (USP 6,694,316). Claim 3 was rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ramsay in view of Hussey, Lin, and Seder (USPGP 2002/0164053). Claims 2 and 8 were rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ramsay in view of Hussey, Lin and Cullen (USP 5,893,908). Lastly, claim 14 was rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hussey in view of Abdel-Mottaleb (USP 6,285,995) and Lin.

Applicant traverses these rejections because the applied references would not have disclosed or taught at least the setting/notifying features set forth in independent claims 1, 11, 12, and 14. Specifically, these independent claims call for setting, based on a user operation, whether or not the searched original electronic document data file is to be attached to an electronic mail and transmitting the search result as an electronic mail to an electronic mail address, including information indicative of the location where the searched original electronic document data is stored. When the searched original electronic document data file is set to not attach to the electronic mail, the searched original electronic document data file is not transmitted, while sending its storage location.

As presently claimed, the pending claims call for attaching no file to an electronic mail when the setting dictates that the searched original electronic document data file is not to be attached. That is, the content of the file is not sent. The pending claims, however, call for always sending the location where the searched original electronic document data is stored via the email regardless whether the searched file is attached or not.

In rejecting the claims, the examiner asserts that Ramsay has to have a searching device that implements the user's search in order to retrieve the desired document. In this respect, Ramsay discloses that the user issues a retrieval command to the mainframe 16 for a particular document image. See column 26, lines 37-47. Moreover, the examiner asserts that Ramsay notifies the user when the image document is retrieved. The examiner asserts that Ramsay only lacks the setting device that sets whether the retrieved image document should be sent via an email and the notifying device that identifies the location of the retrieved image document. In this respect, the examiner relied upon Hussey for the proposition that sending the search result, namely an original electronic document data, via an email would have been obvious, and relying on Lin for the proposition that identifying the location of the searched document data in the email would have been obvious.

Applicant disagrees with the combination urged by the examiner because there would not have been any suggestion anywhere for Hussey to send the search result/storage location of the searched data via an email as advanced by the examiner. Nonetheless, even if the combination were deemed proper for argument's sake, applicant submits that Hussey and Lin would not have taught the claimed invention, namely providing a user setting that permits setting of whether to send the content of the searched file over an email, while always sending the search result via the email, including the storage location of the searched data.

Indeed, Hussey discloses attaching an EXCEL spreadsheet file when a user submits an email request by including the text "SQL: spreadsheet" in a subject field 56. Hussey also discloses receiving results simply as a text file within the email itself when a user submits an email request by including the text "SQL: text" in the subject field 56. See column 8, lines 47 to column 9, line 20. The text "SQ:xxx" is merely used to set how the searched document is to be sent via an email. Hussey always sends the content of the searched file, either as an attachment or embedding in the email itself. Hussey thus calls for automatically sending the content of the searched file every time it is found. As Hussey fails to disclose the setting feature where the content of the searched data file is not sent, applicant submits that the combination urged by the examiner would not have taught the claimed invention.

The examiner relied upon Lin for the proposition that identifying the location of the searched document data in the email would have been obvious, relying on the passage set forth in column 1, lines 11-20. This passage merely discusses viewing files and information associated therewith from a database while networked, such as retrieving and viewing an image file over a network. Lin states nothing about sending file information, including the storage

location over an email. Accordingly, applicant submits that the combination urged by the examiner further would not have taught the claimed invention.

The remaining secondary references, namely Langseth, Seder, Cullen, and Abdel-Mottaleb would not have alleviated the shortcomings of the Ramsay/Hussey/Lin combination.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that the pending claims patentably distinguish over the applied references and are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicant urges the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSSI, KIMMS & McDOWELL LLP

17 JANUARY 2008   /Lyle Kimms 011708/
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